

AS HOFFER SEES IT.

Candidate Taft made a speech at the dedication of a court house in Virgin the other day when he uttered the splendid sentiment, congratulating the people that the two political parties were nearly evenly balanced in that particular county. He said where one party was overwhelmingly in the majority it was very difficult to get bad men out of office or secure the punishment of political offences. That was a great big truth you uttered, Mr. Taft, and bravely spoken in time of need. Take it here in Oregon, and all kinds of unfit men have ridden into office on the overwhelming majorities of the dominant party. In the last legislature there was but one Democrat in the lower house of the legislature, and in the present legislature the proportion is not much larger. If the state were not gerrymandered outrageously in the interest of the Republican party there would be at least one-third of each legislature Democrats, and a stronger class of men would have to be put up by the Republicans to get the majority. But the sentiment is growing stronger against the machine policies that subordinate all to the party interest. Marion county this year has four anti-machine members of the general assembly, Hatteberg, Hay, Libby and Patton. The machine wing of the party has three members, Hughes, Reynolds and Smith. The anti-machine majority is strong in both houses, and there is apt to be a new leadership that will put up a program that means much to the people and little to the machine. The machine program will mean extravagance and trading in offices and spoils. The four anti-machine members who are pledged to vote for the choice of the people for United States senator have cut off the first and most demoralizing influence that enters into any legislative organization—the trading and dickering and downright corruption growing out of electing U. S. senators. There is not a ten-year-old boy in Oregon who does not know just what men want to go to the legislature for—to sell their votes.—Capitol Journal.

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